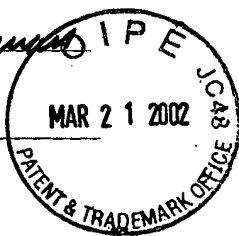


I hereby certify that this correspondence is deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Michael R. Lanning

3/14/02



(5) 265T
0430

PATENT

Attorney Docket No.: 010951

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Kubota et al.)
)
Serial No.: 10/032,721)
)
Filing Date: December 27, 2001)
)
Entitled: **EXCHANGE DECOUPLED COBALT/NOBLE METAL
PERPENDICULAR RECORDING MEDIA**

RECEIVED

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant submits the documents listed on the attached PTO Form 1449 for consideration during prosecution of the above-captioned patent application filed on December 27, 2001. Applicant hereby requests the Examiner to review and make an independent evaluation of the art.

This statement is made solely for the purpose of compliance with the above-identified rules and is not intended to be a substitute for an independent search by the Examiner and no representation of any such nature is made or intended by this statement.

In accordance with Section 1.97(b)(1), this statement is being submitted prior to the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-4553. A copy of this transmittal letter is enclosed.

Also enclosed is a return postcard. Please date stamp and mail the postcard to acknowledge receipt of the above-mentioned correspondence.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael G. Panian
Reg. No. 32,623

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL P.C.
One Oxford Centre, 20th Floor
301 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Dated: 3/14/02

Attorneys for Applicant